(c) The Annual Plan of Gujarat for the year 1996-97 has not been finalised. However, the tentative proposals of the Gujarat Electricity Board envisaged 75 SPA-BP schemes covering energisation of 30,000 agricultural pumpsets.

Rural Unemployment

1275. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleases to state:

(a) the total number of unemployed in the rural areas in the country, as on the 1st July, 1996; and

(b) what steps are being taken to reduce rural unemployment and whether these steps are showing results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) Total number of unemployed in the rural areas in the country as on 1st July, 1996 have not been estimated. However, total number of unemployed persons in both rural and urban areas at the end of March, 1995 as estimated by Planning Commission is 18.69 million.

(b) To tackle the problem of rural unemployment, Government have been implementing several employment generation programmes. Major programmes include Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme which are wage employment programmes and Integrated Rural Development Programme which is a self employment programme. These programmes have helped in providing sustainable employment opportunities to the rural poor and these would be continued in 1996-97.

Development of roads in the Hill districts of U.P.

1276. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 217 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th December, 1995 and state:

(a) whether any funds were earmarked in the sub-plan, especially for macadamization of roads in the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details of funds, district-wise; and

(c) if answer to part(a) above be in the negative, whether any action would be taken to earmark funds for this purpose in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b). An outlay of Rs. 82 crores for roads and bridges under Uttrakhand (Hill Area) Sub-plan, 1995-96 was approved by the Planning Commission. Out of this outlay, Special Hill Assistance stood at Rs. 38.70 crores. The outlay is for construction, widening, surfacing, strengthening, etc., of roads and bridges in the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh. An additional Central Assistance of Rs. 5 crores for improvement of Rishikesh-Joshimath-Badrinath-Mana Road was also sanctioned during 1995-96.

(c) Does not arise.

दिल्ली में पानी का संकट

1277. **श्री इकबाल सिंह:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली में ग्रीष्म ऋतु में पानी का संकट व्याप्त रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) पानी की समस्या का समाधान करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या आवश्यक कदम उठाए गए हैं?

शहरी कार्य और रोजगार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा॰ यू॰ वेंकटेश्वरलू): (क) और (ख) दिल्ली में 750 मिलियन गैलन दैनिक पेय जल की जरूरत के मुकाबले 600 मि॰ गैलन दैनिक जल की आपूर्ति की जा रही है।

(ग) दिल्ली में जल-आपूर्ति बढ़ाने हेतु निम्नलिखित उपाय/कार्य हाथ में लिये गये हैं:-

1. नांगलोई में 40 मिलियन गैलन दैनिक क्षमता का जल शोधन संयंत्र निर्माणाधीन है।
2. बबाना में 20 मि॰ गैलन दैनिक क्षमता के जल शोधन संयंत्र के निर्माण हेतु टेन्डर मांगे गए हैं।
3. अलीपुर प्रखण्ड में दो रेनी-कूप चालू किये गये है। तथा तीसरा रेनी-कूप शीर्घ चालू हो जाने

की आशा है।

स्थायी उपाय-यमुना नदी जल की भागीदारी हेतु नदी-क्षेत्र के राज्यों अर्थात् उत्तर प्रदेश, हरियाणा, हिमाचाल प्रदेश, राजस्थान और दिल्ली के मुख्य मंत्रियों के बीच एक अंतर-राज्यीय करार पर 12-5-94 को हस्ताक्षर हुए थे। इस करार के अनुसार, दिल्ली को 200 क्यूसेक जल मिलेगा। यमुना नदी पर दो बड़े जलाशय बनाये जायेंगे।

2. टेहरी बांध परियोजना के तहत दिल्ली को 300 क्यूसेक जल आपूर्ति का प्रावधान है।

Indian and foreign private sector firms distributing LPG

1278. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian or foreign private sector firms have been permitted to operate in the area of import, bottling and distribution of LPG for domestic and commercial use;

(b) if so, the details of the firms, their capacity and areas of operations; and

(c) their respective market prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALU): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Under the Parallel Marketing System, private parties, Indian or foreign, have been allowed to import and market LPG, using/ setting up their own infrastructure and distribution network, at market-determined prices, under their own terms. Private parties are not required to obtain any licence from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for undertaking activities under the scheme. They are, however, required to obtain approvals/clearances under the relevant Acts and Rules regarding safety, pollution control, etc., as applicable. The private parties are also now required to get themselves rated from one of the approved rating agencies and submit the rating certificate to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and others concerned.

Private parties can market imported LPG in any part of the country at market determined prices. The prices at which the products are sold by the private parties are not maintained by the Government. As on 30.6.1996 96 parties have got rating certificate for parallel marketing of LPG.

Photocopies in Government Offices

1279. SHRI O.P. KOHLI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with the introduction of photocopiers in abundance in Government Offices, copies numbering more than ten are being photocopied, including the answers to Parliament questions which were hitherto to being cyclostyled;

(b) whether photocopying of such papers is a costly proposition in comparison to cyclostyling; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to prohibit photocopying of any paper where more than 10 copies are required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) It has been provided in the Manual of Office Procedure that, since the photocopier is a relatively expensive machine, it is advisable to use this facility only when the number of copies needed does not exceed fifteen. However, it has been left to the discretion of the Ministries/ Departments to maintain control on the misuse of the photocopiers. This Department has no information in regard to photocopiers being used instead of cyclostyling for getting copies for the purpose of furnishing replies to Parliament Questions.

(b) and (c) This Department has not conducted any study to carry out any cost benefit analysis of the photocopying Vs. cyclostyling machine under different situations. It is, therefore, difficult to furnish any information in this regard. The economy instructions are being reiterated by Government from time to time.

World Bank assistance to state in the power sector

1280. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank proposes to assist directly some State Governments in the power sector;